

C. P. Strehly House
130 (131) West Second Street
Hermann
Gasconade County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-256

HABS
MO,
37-HERM,
24 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

ADDENDUM
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

C.P. STREHLY HOUSE

HABS No. MO-256

Location: 130 (131) West Second Street, Hermann,
Gasconade County, Missouri.

Present Owner: The Brush and Palette Club, 411 Market Street,
Hermann, Missouri.

Present Use: Museum.

Significance: The C.P. Strehly House exemplifies the residential and commercial architecture of Hermann's earliest period of settlement. The basement of the house was the print shop of C.P. Strehly and Edward Muhl, publishers of Hermann's first newspaper "Licht-Freund." The two story commercial building was built to accommodate a tavern and winery opened in 1857. The false aproned chimneys of the winery-tavern, the half timbering and extended facade of the house, and the position of the buildings close to the front of the lot are characteristics reflecting the German background of their builders.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection:

House: c. 1842/43. Although Carl Strehly did not buy the property until September 4, 1843, the first issue of "Licht-Freund," published in Hermann and presumably printed in the basement of the house, is dated August 28, 1843. It is possible that the house was built before Strehly actually purchased the lot but after 1841 when its assessed valuation was only \$90.00, \$40.00 above the original price of the lot.

Winery-tavern: 1854-57. In 1854, Strehly's partner Edward Muhl died and Strehly retired from the newspaper business. The assessed valuation of the property rose between 1853 and 1855 (City Tax Records), and Strehly applied for a tavern license in 1857. All these factors indicate that the wine cellar and first floor tavern were built between 1855 and 1857.

2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The C.P. Strehly House is built on lot 12 West Second Street, Hermann, Missouri. The following references to the title of this lot are recorded in the Gasconade County, Missouri Deed Books and Probate Records.

1843	Tax Deed	A. Dolt, by Sheriff to Charles Strehly Date signed: September 4, 1843 Date recorded: May 2, 1845 Book E Pages 324 and 325 Consideration: \$8.00
1879	Administrator's Deed	Estate of C.P. Strehly, by Sophia Strehly, Administratrix to Sophia Strehly Date signed: May 14, 1879 Date recorded: August 13, 1879 Box 23 Bundle 3 Paper 4 Consideration: \$5.00
1891	Last Will	Sophia Strehly to Charles Strehly Date signed: December 5, 1891 Book 27 Pages 532 and 533
1928	Quit-Claim Deed	Carl Strehly to Rosa Strehly Date signed: February 4, 1928 Date filed: February 16, 1928 Book 53 Page 495 Consideration: \$1.00 and other considerations.
1957	Warranty Deed	Rosa Strehly to Felix Lauer Date signed: November 30, 1957 Date recorded: December 6, 1957 Book 95 Page 493 Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable considerations
1962	Warranty Deed	Felix Lauer and Ella his wife to The Brush and Palette Club Date signed: October 23, 1962 Date filed: October 24, 1962 Book 105 Page 243 Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable considerations

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: No original plans or written accounts of the construction of the C.P. Strehly House have been located. The original house was a one-and-a-half story, two room, center hall plan clapboarded half timber building with a complete basement and finished attic. It may have had a porch. The winery-tavern included only the barrel vaulted wine cellar and the first

floor tavern. The two buildings were originally separate with the axis of the winery-tavern perpendicular to the street and that of the house parallel to it. The completed complex is included in a bird's eye view of Hermann from the Missouri River by A. Rutgers done in 1869 and in a panoramic view of the town from the Missouri River lithographed by Edward Robyn, a local artist, in 1877. An earlier Robyn lithograph (1860) of the town from the vineyards of Mr. Rommel (southeast) presents the town from an angle, and the house cannot be identified. The house also is included in a photograph of Hermann taken from the County Courthouse between 1869 and 1877.

5. Alterations and additions:

House: Two rooms were added to the front of the original house possibly by enclosing an existing porch. The four original windows were filled in; those to the left of the door with brick, those to the right with wood. This addition was probably made after the second floor was added to the winery-tavern. The 1869 view, mentioned above, shows the house with these rooms.

The roof of the house is shown extended to meet the winery-tavern in the 1869 view. If a porch existed before the rooms were added, the roof was simply extended before 1869. If, however, there was no porch, the entire house was reroofed when the two rooms were added. The roof of the house was originally covered with wooden shingles. It now has a covering of bent seam sheet metal.

A clapboarded one story enclosed porch with corrugated metal roof was added at the rear of the house. It appears in the first Sanborn Perris Insurance Map to include the house, 1908.

Winery-tavern: A second floor was added to the winery-tavern by 1869. It was probably built before the rooms were added at the front of the house.

The extended roof of the house encloses a second floor window. This window has been fitted with a cupboard.

Asbestos shingles cover the original wooden shingle roofing.

The flooring of the tavern section has been partially replaced. Since Ross Strehly used the front room of the tavern as a kitchen, the original character of that room has been changed.

General: The house and winery-tavern have been repointed with cement.

Although there are two rises in assessed valuation between 1857 and 1869 which might account for the addition of the second floor to the winery-tavern and the two rooms to the house, they cannot be reconciled with the other physical and historical evidence. These changes in assessed valuation occur between 1858 and 1859 and between 1867 and 1868. They are apparently unrelated to general reassessments. Yet, since the physical evidence indicates that the second floor of the winery-tavern

was added before the two rooms at the front of the house, and Rosa Strehly, daughter of the man who built the house, claimed the second floor was built after the Civil War, these changes in valuation cannot be used to give dates of construction for the additions.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

"Licht-Freund," Hermann's first newspaper, was published by Carl Procopius Strehly and his brother-in-law, Edward Muhl. First published by Muhl in Cincinnati, Ohio, it was a philosophical paper expressing the views of the Freidenker or free thinkers, a group of nineteenth century humanists, who believed in human dignity and the supremacy of logic and reason. Among the institutions that "Licht-Freund" attacked most vigorously was slavery. Objecting to the paper's abolitionist views, local slave holding farmers crossed the Missouri River to destroy Muhl and Strehly's printing operations. The publishers heard of the planned attack and fled after burying the press behind the house, (Interview) The "Licht-Freund" proved unprofitable; therefore Strehly and Muhl began publishing a news/oriented paper, "Hermanner Wochenblatt," in its place. In 1854, Edward Muhl died, and Strehly gave up the newspaper. Edward Muhl's reputation was not limited to the Hermann area. He was the primary literary figure in the town's early history.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views:

1860 panoramic view of Hermann from Rommel's vineyards (southeast), Lithograph by Edward Robyn, Hermann Museum, Old German School House, East Fourth and Schiller Streets, Hermann, Missouri.

1869 bird's eye view of Hermann from the Missouri River, drawn by A. Rutgers, Pommer-Gentner House, 108 Market Street, Hermann, Missouri (owned by The Brush and Palette Club, 411 Market Street, Hermann, Missouri).

1877 panoramic view of Hermann from the Missouri River, lithograph by Edward Robyn, Missouri Historical Society, Jefferson Building, St. Louis 12, Missouri (a photograph of this lithograph is in the Hermann Historic District files in the State Planning and Survey Office, Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Missouri).

1869-77 panoramic photograph of Hermann taken from the County Courthouse, Hermann Museum, Old German School House, East Fourth and Schiller Streets, Hermann, Missouri.

2. Bibliography;

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

1. City Tax Records, Old City Hall, Market Street, Hermann, Missouri.
2. Deeds, Office of the County Recorder, Gasconade County Courthouse, East First Street between Market and Schiller Streets, Hermann, Missouri.
3. Probate Records, Office of the Probate Clerk, Gasconade County Courthouse.
4. Sanborn Perris Insurance Maps, 1908 and 1917, Third floor east, Elmer Ellis Library, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.
5. Files of the State Planning and Survey Office, Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Missouri.
6. Interview: Mrs. Anna Hesse, local historian, June 10 and 12, 1975, alterations, story of slave holders, date of second floor addition.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Bek, William G., The German Settlement Society of Philadelphia and Its Colony Hermann. (Americana Germanica Publishing Co., Philadelphia: 1907).

Hesse, Anna, Centenarians of Brick, Wood, and Stone, Hermann, Missouri, (Anna Hesse, 1969).

History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, (Goodspeed Publishing Company, Chicago, Ill.: 1888)

Missouri, a Guide to the "Show-Me" State, Writers Program (Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York: 1941).

Prepared by: Nanette M. Linderer
Project Historian
Summer 1975

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Strehly House is actually two buildings with an enclosed walkway between. It is a simply detailed structure bearing many characteristics that distinguish it as one of Hermann's earlier buildings, constructed by the town's founders.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair-good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: East section (including walkway):
33'-0" x 37'-0"
West section 21'-6" x 39'-0"
2. Foundations: Uneven coursed, squared limestone rubble walls, 18"-20" thick.
3. Wall construction: In the east section, 3"-4" square wooden timbers are spaced 24" on center and bear on wooden sills laid on the foundation walls; rafter plates top the walls. End panels are braced with short diagonal members, and the spaces between timbers are infilled with brick nogging. Clapboards cover the wall's exterior. The addition at the front of the house and the first floor of the commercial structure are constructed of 13" brick walls. The second floor has 8" walls. The south wall of the passageway is constructed of 1" x 6" vertical planks with exposed interior framing boards.
4. Structural system: Half-timber or masonry exterior bearing walls, with nonstructural frame or brick interior walls. Rafters in the east section are 2" x 6" rough-sawn boards with horizontal and vertical bracing halfway along their length; they lead to a 1" x 6" ridge beam. The west section has unbraced rafters which are mitred at the ridge with no ridge beam. Large, roughly-hewn logs form the floor beams for the first floor of the east section -- the enclosed porch at the front of that section has smaller, sawn joists. The floors of the west section are supported by 2" x 10" joists with cross-bridging.
5. Porches: A front porch (now enclosed by brick walls and divided into two rooms by a plank partition) runs the length of the north wall of the house. A single-story, partially enclosed, frame porch, covered by clapboards, has been built at the basement level on the south side of the house. A single-story, partially enclosed, frame porch, covered by clapboards, has been built at the basement level on the south side of the house. A two-step, cut-stone stoop flanked on each side by a boot scraper leads to the parlor doorway. The step at the passageway entrance is an old lithographic stone, reportedly used in Strehly's print shop.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Doors on three of the openings on the north wall are four panel; the door leading to the passageway is vertical plank with beveled cleats. All doorways have flat casings and trim and are framed by brick relieving arches. The door to the parlor has a wooden sill; all others have stone sills.
- b. Windows: Windows in the masonry walls have brick relieving arches over rectangular wooden frames. They are six-over-six-light double-hung with wooden sills and simple casings. Windows in the half-timber section are six-over-six-light double-hung with flat wooden lintels.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering;
 - East: Gable roof with standing seam metal covering. Snow stops line the bottom edges.
 - West: Gable roof covered with diamond-shaped asbestos tiles topped by ceramic ridge tiles.

What appears to be a pair of aproned chimneys on the north side of the commercial building is actually only an 8" parapet wall.

- b. Cornice: Simple wooden cornices are covered by gutters which channel water through downspouts into cisterns.
- c. Dormers: One gabled dormer on the north side of the east section,

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The three-room basement under the east section, enlarged by the addition of the rear porch, is accessible from the passageway or from a stairway in the southeast corner of the house. Under the west section is an arched wine cellar with stone walls and brick ceiling. A hole in the middle of the ceiling allows liquids to be pumped up through hoses to the tavern above.
- b. First floor: A front door leads into the passageway between the house and the commercial structure from which one may enter the enclosed porch of the house. This porch has been divided into a dining room and a parlor. A short hall (originally the vestibule) joins the parlor, and from it one enters a bedroom on either side. Beyond the hall is a room used for storage and a bathroom. On the right side of the passageway is the entry of the kitchen, which connects the tavern.

- c. Second floor; A stairway in the northeast corner of the commercial building leads to a short hallway on the second floor which joins the dance hall and a smaller room.
 - d. Attic; A stairway in the southeast corner of the house leads up to a single unfinished attic space. Lath marks on the vertical rafter braces indicate that the attic has had finished walls at one time. The attic over the west section is a single unfinished space.
- 2. Stairways: From the southeast corner of the first floor of the house a straight-run open-string wooden stair leads to the basement. An L-shaped quarter-turn stair leads to the attic. All of these stairs are steeply pitched and are enclosed by vertical plank walls with doors. A six-foot-wide, steeply pitched brick stairway leads from the double-door entrance of the commercial building down to the wine cellar. It was originally covered by double trap doors (now removed).
 - 3. Flooring: Varied-width tongue-and-groove boards on the first, second, and attic levels; passageway floored with brick pavers laid in a herringbone pattern, leading to a wooden stair and sloped concrete floor. The basement under the house has stone, concrete and dirt floors; the porch addition at the rear has a concrete floor. The winery has a dirt floor.
 - 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted lath-and-plaster walls in the house and second floor of the commercial building; exposed brick walls in the passageway, kitchen and tavern. Kitchen walls and part of the north wall of the passageway are painted white.
 - 5. Doorways and doors: Four panel doors are used throughout, with simple wooden jambs with cyma reversa moldings. Decorative "bible cross" door is located in the doorway between the passageway and the dining room.
 - 6. Decorative trim; Baseboard and beaded chair rails line the walls of the house. Doors have cast iron rimlocks.
 - 7. Lighting: Contemporary electric lights.
 - 8. Heating: Heating is by the stove in the kitchen; other flues not used.
- D. Site;

The C. P. Strehly House faces north from its location halfway down a city block. There are no outbuildings.

Prepared by: Clayton B. Fraser
Project Supervisor
Summer 1975

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Hermann, Missouri, project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, with cooperation of Historic Hermann, Incorporated. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1975 by Clayton B. Fraser (HABS Washington Office), Project Supervisor; Nanette M. Linderer (University of Missouri at Columbia), Project Historian; and Student Architects Edward C. Freeman (Arizona State University), Jean C. Parker (Columbia University), and Donnie G. Seale (University of Florida). The photographs were taken in April and May 1983, by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe.

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An addendum to:
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(Edward Muhl House)
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PHOTOGRAPHS

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